

South Carolina Workforce



TRENDS

February 2010 Issue . . . December 2009 Data

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Farm Employment Plentiful

Farming in South Carolina is a \$34 billion industry that employs approximately 200,000 people. For those who are out of work, this could be an untapped resource.

Shawn Phillips, Rural Manpower Coordinator with S.C. Employment Security Commission (ESC), said there are many jobs in agriculture throughout the season. These jobs are advertised through the ESC Workforce Centers and in local newspapers, during certain times of the year. Phillips also said he had seen an increase in the number of people applying and taking jobs in agriculture this year, versus what he had seen in the past.

American citizens have a built-in guarantee for farm jobs under the federal guest worker program, known as H-2A Temporary Agricul-

tural Worker Program. "The H-2A program specifies that any American worker, during half the contract period that the grower has signed up for with the U.S. government, is allowed to come out and apply, and will be hired on that job," said Phillips. "Forexample, if a grower needs workers for ten months, for the first five months of that contract, any U.S. worker that shows up and applies will be hired by our growers here in South Carolina."

Chris Yonce, Vice-President of Field Operations at J. W. Yonce and Sons said, "If they can go through and adhere to the requirements of the work contract, the job is open to the public." However, it's not the kind of work many Americans are willing to do, which means that farmers will usually resort to hiring migrant labor, or "guest workers."



"What we've learned from our growers," is that "one or two guys may make it through the season, but for the bulk of our people in our local towns and communities, work lasts anywhere from one day to a week at the most, and then they find something else and go back in search of another type of job," Phillips said.

Jerry Watson, of Watson Farms in Monetta, agrees. "We have tried some people that have come by and applied for jobs and they work for a few days and the next thing you know, they're gone," he said. "With our product, we have it planted and ready to harvest. We have to get the most dependable labor services to us."

A Family Tradition

Most of the largest growers have used migrant farm labor out of

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necessity. For Watson, the guest workers are much more dependable. Migrant workers perform the work at his farm and other farms along South Carolina's peach district.

Watson said that most of the workers are Hispanic. They've been coming to this area for years. Many of them are also related to one another. On holidays, the workers and employers celebrate together with a barbecue, just like family. According to Watson, they enjoy their work as well, "They're happy people and we're happy and mighty fortunate to have them."

Watson points to the example of supervisor Manuel Vallencia, who has been with him for ten years. During that time, Manuel's own extended family has come to this country and many of them work with him.

"I wouldn't do it without him," Watson said. "I couldn't do it without him." Manuel wants to continue to advance at Watson Farms. He has a dream and everyday he learns something new.

Families of laborers have also worked out well at Yonce Farms. Josh Yonce said that since the program started eleven years ago,



Jerry Watson (right) says he couldn't make it as a farmer without the help of people like Manuel Vallencia, who is now a supervisor with Watson Farms.

he has also tried to hire family groups - to bring in the same groups, with families, year in and year out.



Yonce Farms also employs high school and college students as a regular part of the crew. These students operate machines, do inspections, and help where ever needed in the facility. "We have some college kids working for us, both here in the packing facility and in the field," said Chris Yonce. Because most jobs require either driving a tractor or a forklift, they must be old enough to have a driver's license.

Tough Work

During the summer months, farm employment has been plentiful, but the jobs that are available to the public are mostly manual field labor positions, and farm work is notoriously hard and fast labor. As with any type of agriculture, it's going to be a labor intensive job. It's going to be mostly outdoors and it's going to be in the summer heat. It's also going to be 6 to 7 days a week. "When a product is ready to be picked, it's ready to be picked. [Vegetables will] either get too big or too ripe on you," said Jerry Watson, so they work seven days a week.

Time is also a constant factor. "Our product is packed within 48 hours of being picked off the branch," said Chris Yonce.

A Tough Economy

Chris Yonce has seen farming change in recent years due to costs - the cost of chemicals, the cost of fuel, and the cost of labor. The margin between the costs to the farmer to produce the product, and what he receives when it is sold is getting slimmer, and it is taking much more to make a profit and pay the bills.

"The economy has been a factor that has played into our everyday business," said Josh Yonce. Diesel fuel prices rose last summer to nearly five dollars a gallon. His farm used almost two thousand gallons of diesel fuel per day. When added to the increased cost of labor, as well as rising chemical prices for pesticide application, the economy has a major role in affecting farm production.



H-2A labor is also costly. It requires farmers to advertise job openings, and to meet stringent federal requirements regarding housing, transportation, and wages. The H-2A rates vary by crop. This past year, they were around \$8.53 an hour. Housing is provided for free, and transportation is paid to get the worker to the job if they live outside a certain radius.

The pay scale will depend on the job assignment. Some pay may exceed

S.C. Agriculture Overview

General

- There are approximately 26,900 farms in South Carolina. The average farm size is 182 acres.
- South Carolina has 4,900,000 acres in farmland.
- There are over 12 million acres of forestland throughout South Carolina, with 74% privately owned.
- South Carolina is home to many ag-related festivals, such as the Okra Strut, the World Grits Festival, the Rice Festival, the Chitlin' Strut, and several festivals featuring peaches, watermelons, shrimp, oysters, and catfish.
- Soybeans are the most widely planted crop, with 430,000 acres planted in 2005.
- Fresh market fruits and vegetables produced in S.C. include cucumbers, snap beans and tomatoes.
- Specialty crops include exotic mushrooms, ginkgo, and pecans.

Animals

- South Carolina ranks ninth nationally in turkey production.
- South Carolina greenhouse and nursery products generated \$291 million in cash receipts in 2005.
- In 2005, South Carolina had 415,000 head of cattle, 315,000 hogs, 213.3 million broilers (meat chickens), 8 million turkeys and 781,960 quail.
- Broilers are the top cash commodity in the state, with cash receipts of \$563 million in 2005.
- South Carolina dairy cows produced 369 million pounds of milk in 2000.
- Cattle and calves are raised in every county in the state. Beaufort County has the fewest with 700 head, while Anderson County tops the chart with 42,000 head.

Source: www.agclassroom.org/sc

Soil

- In general, the Southern Piedmont is a reddish soil that has a high amount of clay near the surface.
- The Carolina Sandhill is a band of deep sandy soil that goes through the middle of the state.

Crops

- Greenhouse/nursery and tobacco are the top cash crops in South Carolina.
- South Carolina is home to the only tea farm in North America.
- S.C. ranks second in the nation in the production of peaches, flue-cured tobacco, and collard greens.

Continued from previous page

the minimum wage of \$7.25, but much of the work is paid by how much a worker can accomplish during the day, and wages can vary a lot. Some workers can make \$14-15 an hour during harvest season.

The contract spells out what is demanded of every worker. It is laid out in the work contract how many trees per hour the worker is required to prune, by a small tree, a medium tree, and a large tree. The worker must be able to keep up with his co-workers, and not hold up production. If one person is holding back, it holds up the whole process, whether it is pruning, thinning, or harvesting.

The Opportunities Are There

Commissioner Hugh Weathers, with the S.C. Department of Agriculture, said the guest worker program needs an overhaul, because it's very expensive. However, when a peach crop is ready to be harvested, if the local labor supply is not available, then

the farmer has to go through the expense of bringing in employees from other areas.

Weathers also said it's unfortunate that South Carolinians "have chosen not to look at those [farm jobs] as good job opportunities." These programs require any employer to offer the jobs to local residents first, and then they may use the guest worker program. The opportunities are there. It's not easy work, but it is work.

"Agriculture is a very dynamic field of employment" said ESC Rural Manpower Chief Gaines Wolfe. Jobs may start with manual labor, but there are also specializations in agriculture, from irrigation specialists, to college graduates in agronomy, which is the study of soil management, to field testers for various extension services like Clemson. There are many job opportunities out there in agriculture.

by Rodney Welch
Department of Communications



December 2009

Unemployment rate remains unchanged. . .

Unemployment Holds Steady...In December, both the number of unemployed, at 15.3 million, and the unemployment rate, at 10.0%, were essentially unchanged. At the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed was 7.7 million, and the unemployment rate was 5.0%. Among the unemployed, the number of long-term unemployed, those jobless for 27 weeks and over, continued to trend upward, reaching 6.1 million. In December, 4 in 10 unemployed workers were jobless for 27 weeks or longer.

Regional and State Rates...The West had the highest regional jobless rate in December, at 10.7%, followed by the Midwest, at 10.0%. The South and the Northeast had the lowest rates, at 9.6% and 9.2%, respectively. Michigan, again, recorded the highest unemployment rate among the states, at 14.6% in December. The states with the next highest rates were Nevada, 13.0%; Rhode Island, 12.9%; and **South Carolina, 12.6%**. North Dakota continued to register the lowest jobless rate, 4.4% in December, followed by Nebraska and South Dakota, with 4.7% each. The rate in South Carolina set a new series high, as did the rates in three other states: Delaware (9.0%), Florida (11.8%), and North Carolina (11.2%). The rate in the District of Columbia also set a new series high (12.1%). In total, 27 states posted jobless rates significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 10.0%, 10 states and the District of

Columbia had measurably higher rates, and 13 states had rates that were not very different from that of the nation.

Employment Dips...Nonfarm payroll employment edged down (-85,000) in December. Employment fell in Construction, Manufacturing, and Wholesale Trade, while Temporary Help Services and Health Care made gains. During 2009, monthly job losses moderated substantially. Employment losses in the first quarter of 2009 averaged 691,000 per month, compared with an average loss of 69,000 per month in the fourth quarter.

Construction declined by 53,000 in December, with job losses throughout the industry. Employment in Construction has fallen by 1.6 million since the recession began. In December, Manufacturing decreased by 27,000. The average monthly decline for the last 6 months of 2009 (-41,000) was much lower than the average monthly decline for the first half of the year (-171,000). Since the recession began, Manufacturing has fallen by 2.1 million; three-fourths of this drop occurred in the Durable Goods component (-1.6 million). Wholesale Trade declined by 18,000 in December, with the majority occurring among Durable Goods Wholesalers. Retail Trade was little changed over the month, although General Merchandise stores lost 15,000 jobs. Temporary Help Services added 47,000 jobs in December. Since reaching a low point in July, Temporary Help Services has risen by 166,000. Health Care continued to increase in December (22,000), with notable gains in offices of Physicians (9,000) and Home Health Care Services (8,000). The Health Care industry has added 631,000 jobs since the recession began.

Average Hourly and Weekly Earnings...In December, average hourly earnings of production and non-supervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 3 cents, or 0.2%, to \$18.80. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.2%, while average weekly earnings have risen by 1.9%.

Wholesale Inflation Up...The Producer Price Index (PPI), which measures the cost of a basket of goods and services from the perspective of the seller, advanced 0.2% in December, seasonally adjusted. This gain followed a 1.8% rise in November and a 0.3% increase in October. At the earlier stages of processing, prices received by producers of intermediate goods rose 0.5% and the crude goods index moved up 1.0%. On an unadjusted basis, prices for finished goods advanced 4.4% in 2009, after falling 0.9% in 2008. Movements in the PPI tend to forecast movements in the CPI.

Consumer Prices Up...The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the average change in prices over time of goods and services from the purchaser's perspective, rose 0.1% in December. Over the last 12 months, the index has increased 2.7%. The seasonally adjusted increase in the all items index was broad based, with the indices for food, energy, and all items less food and energy all posting modest increases. Within the latter group, a sharp rise in the index for used cars and trucks was the largest contributor to the 0.1% increase, while the indices for airline fares, apparel, and lodging away from home rose as well. In contrast, the indices for rent and owners' equivalent rent were unchanged and the index for new vehicles declined.

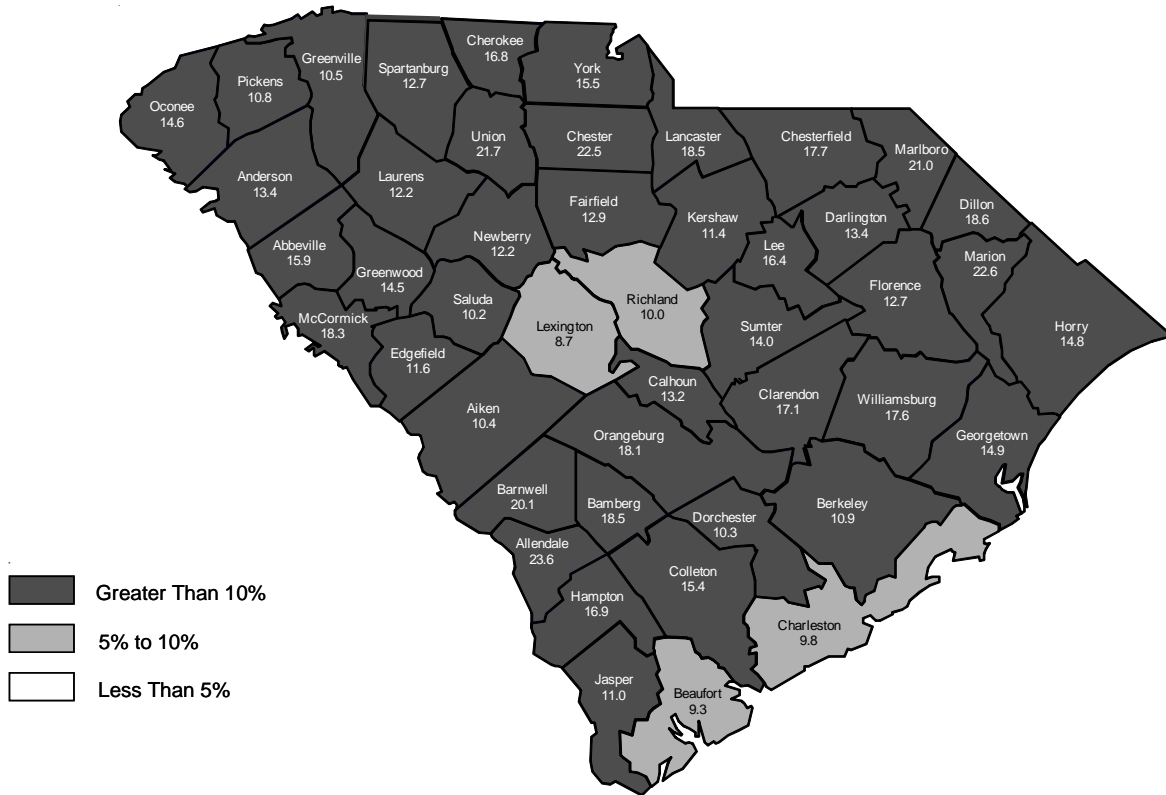
Sources:

edited by J. Moon

- U.S. Department of Labor
- Bureau of Labor Statistics

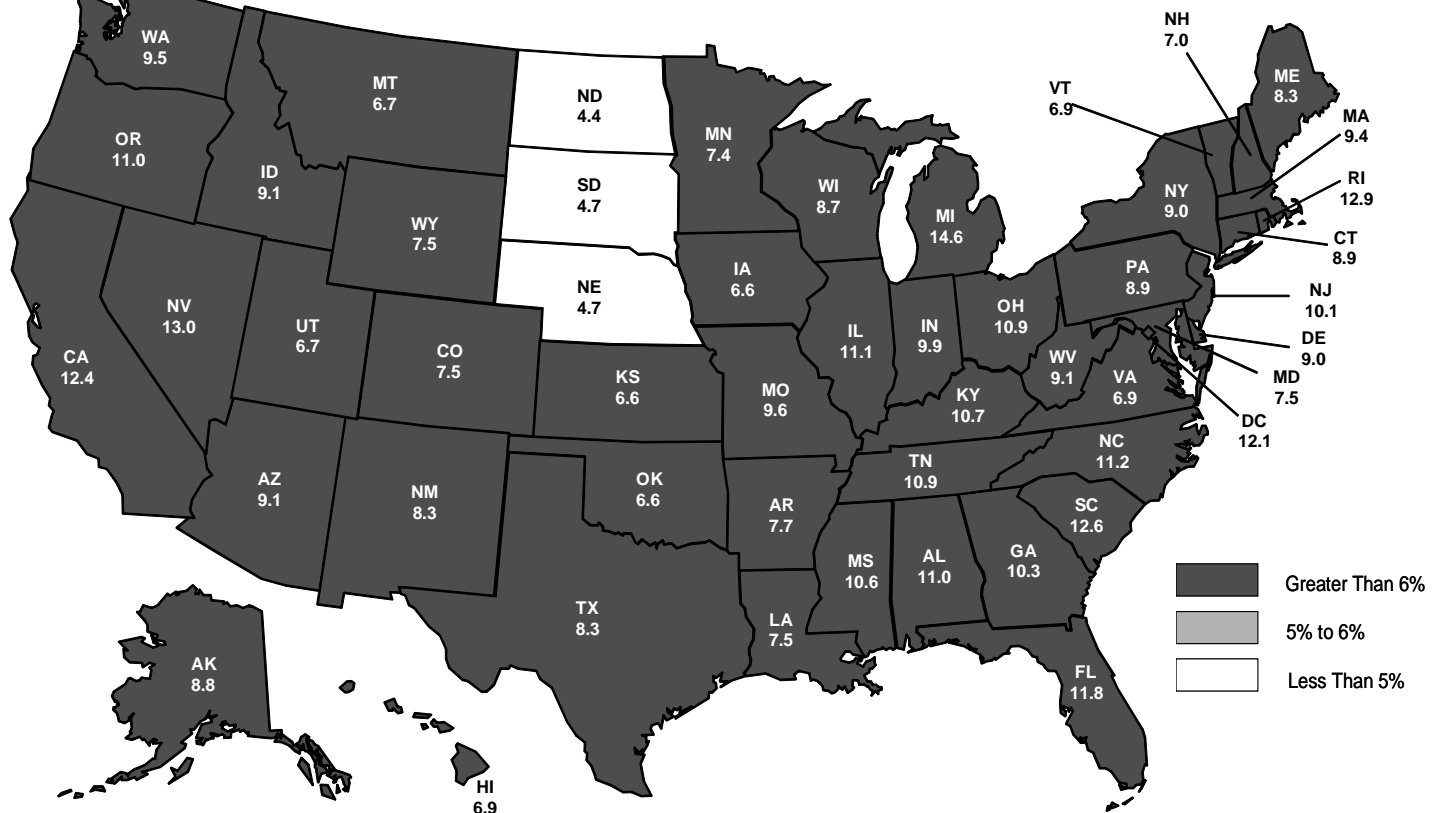
South Carolina Unemployment Rates by County

December 2009 State Unemployment Rate = 12.6%



United States Unemployment Rates by State

December 2009 National Unemployment Rate = 10.0%



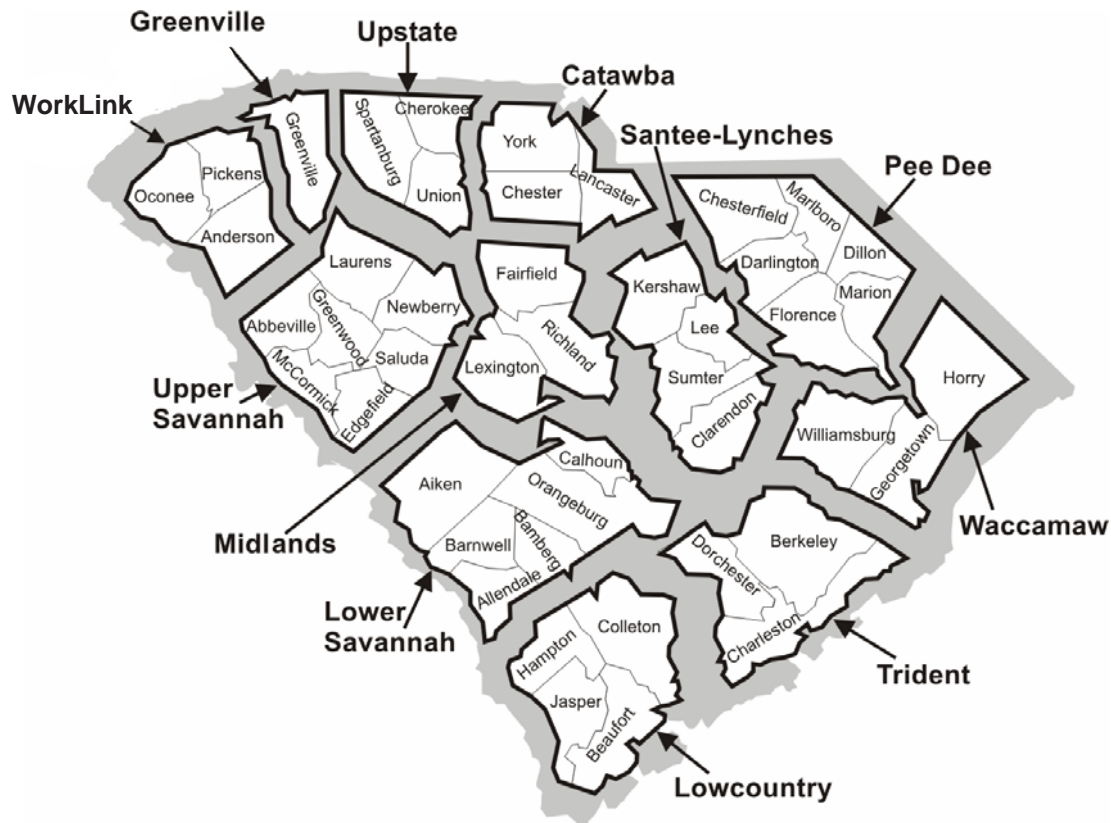
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Labor Force and Unemployment by County and Metropolitan Area (MA) December 2009

County/MA	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Abbeville	11,462	11,402	11,453	1,818	1,702	1,266	15.9	14.9	11.1
Aiken	74,817	74,193	75,770	7,755	6,909	5,728	10.4	9.3	7.6
Allendale	3,307	3,276	3,437	779	742	734	23.6	22.6	21.4
Anderson MA	86,248	86,228	85,664	11,533	10,780	8,209	13.4	12.5	9.6
Bamberg	6,174	6,136	6,314	1,143	1,085	966	18.5	17.7	15.3
Barnwell	9,148	9,122	9,157	1,838	1,784	1,409	20.1	19.6	15.4
Beaufort	62,069	62,440	64,024	5,758	5,803	4,447	9.3	9.3	6.9
Berkeley	79,305	80,293	79,597	8,634	8,791	6,425	10.9	10.9	8.1
Calhoun	7,156	7,205	7,144	943	936	731	13.2	13.0	10.2
Charleston	175,881	177,467	176,522	17,212	16,933	12,239	9.8	9.5	6.9
Cherokee	25,422	25,545	25,838	4,272	4,279	3,351	16.8	16.8	13.0
Chester	15,746	15,643	15,766	3,543	3,368	2,760	22.5	21.5	17.5
Chesterfield	18,835	18,972	18,907	3,335	3,389	2,437	17.7	17.9	12.9
Clarendon	12,398	12,362	12,458	2,126	2,031	1,565	17.1	16.4	12.6
Colleton	16,679	16,614	16,898	2,573	2,427	1,960	15.4	14.6	11.6
Darlington	31,902	32,142	32,350	4,264	4,175	3,873	13.4	13.0	12.0
Dillon	13,044	13,003	13,138	2,429	2,346	1,880	18.6	18.0	14.3
Dorchester	63,321	64,012	63,787	6,516	6,540	4,972	10.3	10.2	7.8
Edgefield	11,051	10,965	11,126	1,281	1,163	922	11.6	10.6	8.3
Fairfield	11,223	11,319	11,781	1,445	1,453	1,688	12.9	12.8	14.3
Florence	64,691	65,168	64,086	8,205	8,010	5,886	12.7	12.3	9.2
Georgetown	30,239	30,165	30,647	4,520	4,184	3,460	14.9	13.9	11.3
Greenville	224,286	226,118	226,319	23,483	23,542	17,058	10.5	10.4	7.5
Greenwood	29,837	29,849	30,455	4,328	4,200	3,399	14.5	14.1	11.2
Hampton	7,646	7,662	7,797	1,289	1,282	1,014	16.9	16.7	13.0
Horry/Myrtle Beach MA	125,881	127,813	125,630	18,631	16,955	14,896	14.8	13.3	11.9
Jasper	9,941	10,034	10,205	1,094	1,136	845	11.0	11.3	8.3
Kershaw	30,415	30,492	30,358	3,461	3,294	2,537	11.4	10.8	8.4
Lancaster	29,117	29,479	29,525	5,397	5,613	4,282	18.5	19.0	14.5
Laurens	33,655	33,831	34,011	4,111	4,026	3,222	12.2	11.9	9.5
Lee	8,182	8,188	8,193	1,338	1,307	976	16.4	16.0	11.9
Lexington	132,831	133,948	133,678	11,606	11,626	8,552	8.7	8.7	6.4
Marion	13,147	13,017	13,253	2,974	2,756	2,496	22.6	21.2	18.8
Marlboro	11,687	11,752	11,938	2,457	2,487	2,043	21.0	21.2	17.1
McCormick	3,418	3,369	3,454	626	567	491	18.3	16.8	14.2
Newberry	18,045	18,154	18,554	2,208	2,279	1,727	12.2	12.6	9.3
Oconee	30,395	30,460	30,682	4,428	4,338	3,254	14.6	14.2	10.6
Orangeburg	40,414	40,321	40,618	7,302	7,054	5,507	18.1	17.5	13.6
Pickens	59,044	59,579	59,658	6,396	6,466	4,792	10.8	10.9	8.0
Richland	181,658	183,321	182,694	18,188	18,371	13,963	10.0	10.0	7.6
Saluda	9,241	9,289	9,265	945	918	702	10.2	9.9	7.6
Spartanburg MA	138,547	139,036	140,171	17,651	17,298	12,838	12.7	12.4	9.2
Sumter MA	42,261	42,590	42,607	5,929	5,855	4,546	14.0	13.7	10.7
Union	12,329	12,302	11,956	2,681	2,607	1,722	21.7	21.2	14.4
Williamsburg	15,485	15,376	15,710	2,722	2,525	2,197	17.6	16.4	14.0
York	107,916	109,324	107,839	16,754	17,336	10,651	15.5	15.9	9.9
Multi-County MAs									
Charleston MA	318,506	321,772	319,906	32,361	32,264	23,636	10.2	10.0	7.4
Columbia MA	372,525	375,574	374,918	36,589	36,597	28,172	9.8	9.7	7.5
Florence MA	96,593	97,310	96,436	12,469	12,185	9,759	12.9	12.5	10.1
Greenville MA	316,985	319,528	319,988	33,990	34,034	25,073	10.7	10.7	7.8
South Carolina*	2,166.7	2,173.4	2,193.2	273.2	266.8	193.1	12.6	12.3	8.8
United States*	153,060	153,720	154,590	15,270	15,340	11,400	10.0	10.0	7.4

*Seasonally adjusted; in thousands

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Area (WIA) December 2009



WIA Areas	Dec. 2009	WIA Areas	Dec. 2009	WIA Areas	Dec. 2009
CATAWBA WIA	16.8	MIDLANDS WIA	9.6	UPPER SAVANNAH WIA	13.1
Chester County	22.5	Fairfield County	12.9	McCormick County	18.3
Lancaster County	18.5	Richland County	10.0	Abbeville County	15.9
York County	15.5	Lexington County	8.7	Greenwood County	14.5
				Newberry County	12.2
		PEE DEE WIA	15.4	Laurens County	12.2
GREENVILLE WIA	10.5	Marion County	22.6	Edgefield County	11.6
Greenville County	10.5	Marlboro County	21.0	Saluda County	10.2
		Dillon County	18.6		
		Chesterfield County	17.7	UPSTATE WIA	14.0
LOWCOUNTRY WIA	11.1	Darlington County	13.4	Union County	21.7
Hampton County	16.9	Florence County	12.7	Cherokee County	16.8
Colleton County	15.4			Spartanburg County	12.7
Jasper County	11.0	Santee-Lynches WIA	13.8		
Beaufort County	9.3	Clarendon County	17.1	WACCAMAW WIA	15.1
		Lee County	16.4	Williamsburg County	17.6
LOWER SAVANNAH WIA	14.0	Sumter County	14.0	Georgetown County	14.9
Allendale County	23.6	Kershaw County	11.4	Horry County	14.8
Barnwell County	20.1				
Bamberg County	18.5	TRIDENT WIA	10.2	WORKLINK WIA	12.7
Orangeburg County	18.1	Berkeley County	10.9	Oconee County	14.6
Calhoun County	13.2	Dorchester County	10.3	Anderson County	13.4
Aiken County	10.4	Charleston County	9.8	Pickens County	10.8

Statewide Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment December 2009

Industry				Net Change From:	
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,847,500	1,857,400	1,885,600	-9,900	-38,100
Total Private	1,498,400	1,507,200	1,535,400	-8,800	-37,000
Goods Producing	312,300	312,900	346,300	-600	-34,000
Service Providing	1,535,200	1,544,500	1,539,300	-9,300	-4,100
Private Service Providing	1,186,100	1,194,300	1,189,100	-8,200	-3,000
Mining & Logging	4,200	4,100	4,200	100	0
Construction	96,200	96,100	108,500	100	-12,300
Construction of Buildings	23,400	23,600	27,900	-200	-4,500
Heavy & Civil Engineering	13,400	13,500	13,900	-100	-500
Specialty Trade Contractors	59,400	59,000	66,700	400	-7,300
Manufacturing	211,900	212,700	233,600	-800	-21,700
<i>Durable Goods</i>	116,000	116,300	131,400	-300	-15,400
Primary Metal & Fabricated Metal Products	32,800	32,800	33,700	0	-900
Computer & Electronic Products, Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component	17,800	17,800	18,400	0	-600
Transportation Equipment	30,000	30,100	31,400	-100	-1,400
<i>Nondurable Goods</i>	95,900	96,400	102,200	-500	-6,300
Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products	19,100	19,100	18,900	0	200
Textile Mills, Textile Mills Products & Apparel	21,400	21,500	25,300	-100	-3,900
Petroleum, Coal Products & Chemical	19,900	20,000	20,700	-100	-800
Plastics & Rubber Products	20,000	20,000	20,400	0	-400
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	358,800	357,500	368,500	1,300	-9,700
Wholesale Trade	67,300	67,700	69,500	-400	-2,200
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	32,800	33,300	36,100	-500	-3,300
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	20,700	20,700	20,900	0	-200
Retail Trade	228,400	227,700	234,600	700	-6,200
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	28,100	28,200	29,100	-100	-1,000
Food & Beverage Stores	42,800	42,800	43,500	0	-700
Health & Personal Care Stores	16,600	16,400	16,600	200	0
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	20,200	19,700	21,500	500	-1,300
General Merchandise Stores	47,500	47,200	49,000	300	-1,500
Transportation, Warehouse & Utilities	63,100	62,100	64,400	1,000	-1,300
Utilities	12,700	12,500	13,000	200	-300
Transportation & Warehousing	50,400	49,600	51,400	800	-1,000
Information	30,100	29,800	29,400	300	700
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	6,700	6,700	6,800	0	-100
Telecommunications	13,500	13,500	13,400	0	100
Financial Activities	101,400	101,700	105,300	-300	-3,900
Finance & Insurance	73,500	73,700	76,200	-200	-2,700
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	34,700	34,800	36,200	-100	-1,500
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	27,900	28,000	29,100	-100	-1,200

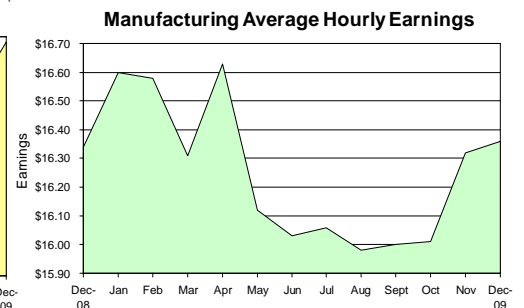
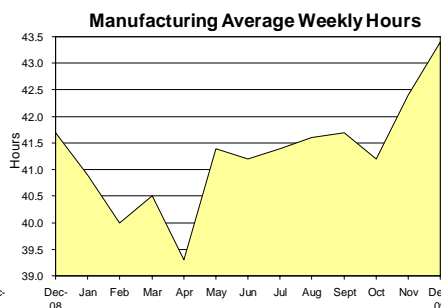
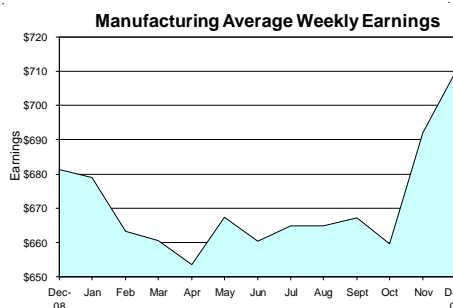
Note: Due to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics restrictions, some industry employment estimates published in prior years will no longer be available.

Statewide Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment (continued from previous page)

Industry				Net Change From:	
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Professional and Business Services	224,000	228,000	210,200	-4,000	13,800
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	81,900	81,200	73,400	700	8,500
Architectural, Engineering & Related Services	21,800	21,800	21,100	0	700
Management of Companies & Enterprises	15,400	15,400	15,600	0	-200
Administrative & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation Svcs	126,700	131,400	121,200	-4,700	5,500
Administrative & Support Services	117,200	121,700	110,300	-4,500	6,900
Employment Services	51,200	53,100	48,600	-1,900	2,600
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	32,100	32,600	30,900	-500	1,200
Educational and Health Services	211,400	211,200	209,000	200	2,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	174,900	174,800	173,900	100	1,000
Ambulatory Health Care Services	70,200	70,400	68,100	-200	2,100
Hospitals	43,800	43,500	43,100	300	700
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	36,900	36,900	36,500	0	400
Leisure and Hospitality	189,200	194,400	196,600	-5,200	-7,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	25,300	25,900	26,000	-600	-700
Amusement, Gambling & Recreation	18,200	18,700	21,200	-500	-3,000
Accommodation & Food Services	163,900	168,500	170,600	-4,600	-6,700
Accommodation	23,800	24,500	27,100	-700	-3,300
Food Services & Drinking Places	140,100	144,000	143,500	-3,900	-3,400
Other Services (except Public Administration)	71,200	71,700	70,100	-500	1,100
Repair & Maintenance	15,600	15,800	16,200	-200	-600
Personal & Laundry Services	17,500	17,500	17,800	0	-300
Total Government	349,100	350,200	350,200	-1,100	-1,100
Federal Government	32,700	32,600	30,800	100	1,900
State Government	99,900	100,100	102,100	-200	-2,200
State Government Education	44,100	44,300	46,600	-200	-2,500
Local Government	216,500	217,500	217,300	-1,000	-800
Local Government Education	115,700	116,700	113,800	-1,000	1,900

December 2009 Average Hours and Earnings

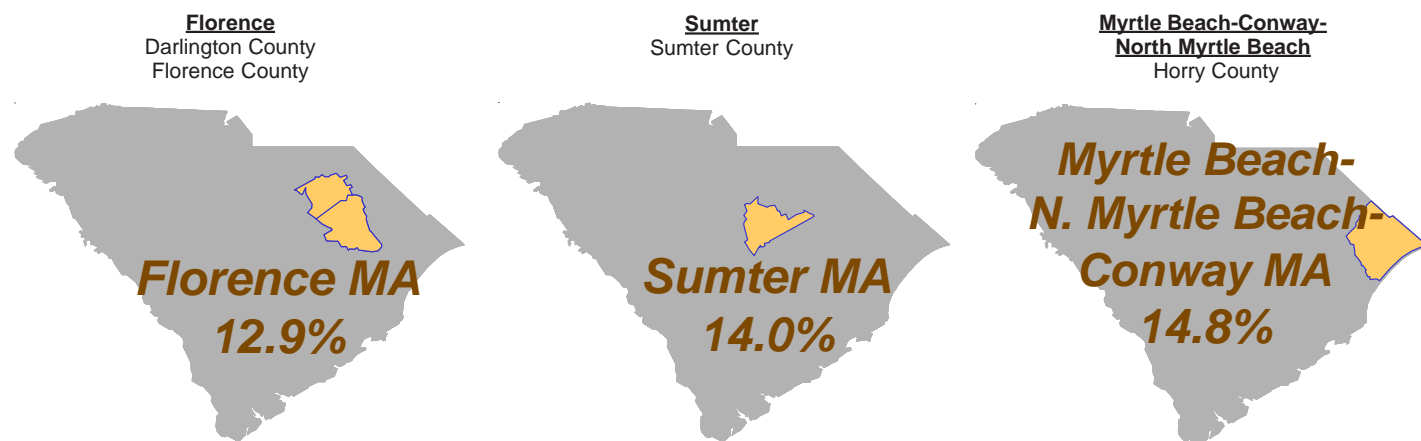
Industry	Average Weekly Earnings (\$)			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings (\$)		
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Manufacturing	710.02	691.97	681.38	43.4	42.4	41.7	16.36	16.32	16.34
Durable Goods	721.63	711.31	704.72	44.6	43.8	44.1	16.18	16.24	15.98
Nondurable Goods	699.25	671.17	652.87	42.2	40.9	38.7	16.57	16.41	16.87



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas December 2009

Industry	Florence			Sumter			Myrtle Beach		
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	87,200	87,800	87,700	34,500	34,700	35,600	111,100	114,700	112,300
Total Private	70,500	71,000	70,800	26,900	27,100	28,400	95,700	99,300	96,700
Goods Producing	15,300	15,300	16,600	9,000	9,000	9,900	11,900	12,000	13,100
Service Providing	71,900	72,500	71,100	25,500	25,700	25,700	99,200	102,700	99,200
Private Service Providing	55,200	55,700	54,200	17,900	18,100	18,500	83,800	87,300	83,600
Manufacturing				6,300	6,300	6,900			
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	17,000	16,900	17,400				25,000	25,600	26,000
Retail Trade							21,300	21,300	21,800
Leisure & Hospitality							27,700	29,500	26,900
Accommodations & Food Services							22,800	24,200	21,700
Food Services & Drinking Places							14,100	14,600	14,200
Total Government	16,700	16,800	16,900	7,600	7,600	7,200	15,400	15,400	15,600
Federal Government	900	900	800	1,300	1,200	1,200	600	600	600
State Government	3,400	3,400	3,500	1,700	1,700	1,600	4,200	4,200	3,600
Local Government	12,400	12,500	12,600	4,600	4,700	4,400	10,600	10,600	11,400

December 2009 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Areas



Palmetto Progress . . . News on Job Creation in South Carolina's Economy

Chesterfield County — A manufacturer whose products include vehicle air bag fabric and a fabric used by NASA as a thermal barrier in solid rocket nozzles is expanding its operations in Chesterfield County and adding 20 new jobs. Highland Industries Inc., which is based in Greensboro, N.C., said the expansion relates to weft insertion manufacturing, which is the production of base components of coated products used in single-ply roofing, coated awnings, and covers for grills and outside displays. In fiscal 2008 and 2009, the company invested \$9 million in the Cheraw plant and expects its fiscal 2010 investment to total \$3.5 million. The current Cheraw facility has been in operation since 1960. The

first 28 years, it was owned by Burlington Industries. Automotive safety component supplier Takata Corp. of Japan purchased the operation in 1988 and operates it as Highland Industries Inc. (www.scbizmag.com)

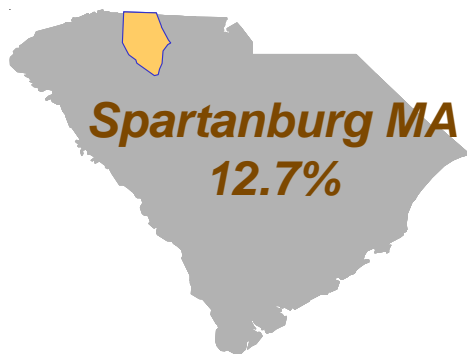
Greenville County — Lab21 Inc. will be locating its new U.S. headquarters, a diagnostics service laboratory and product distribution operations, in Greenville County. The new laboratory will have a focus on oncology. Phase one hiring plans include 65 positions over the first five years. (*Columbia and the Midlands News/columbia.news.sc*)

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas December 2009

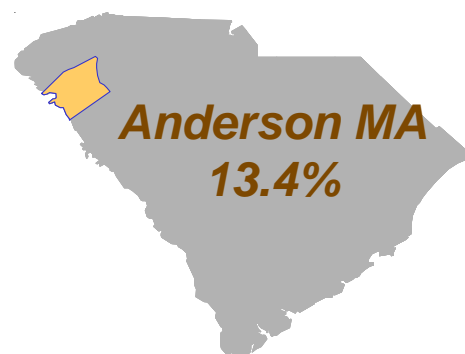
Industry	Spartanburg			Anderson		
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	123,700	124,600	128,700	61,000	61,300	61,700
Total Private	104,300	105,000	109,200	48,600	48,800	49,300
Goods Producing	31,000	31,000	33,200	15,400	15,400	16,300
Service Providing	92,700	93,600	95,500	45,600	45,900	45,400
Private Service Providing	73,300	74,000	76,000	33,200	33,400	33,000
Manufacturing	25,400	25,500	26,500	11,900	11,900	12,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,700	24,800	27,200	11,400	11,300	11,800
Retail Trade	13,500	13,400	14,000	8,200	8,200	8,500
Total Government	19,400	19,600	19,500	12,400	12,500	12,400
Federal Government	500	500	500	300	400	300
State Government	3,900	4,000	4,000	2,200	2,200	2,100
Local Government	15,000	15,100	15,000	9,900	9,900	10,000

December 2009 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Areas

Spartanburg
Spartanburg County



Anderson
Anderson County



Williamsburg County — A wood roof and floor truss manufacturing company is investing \$1.25 million in Williamsburg County, a move expected to create 50 new jobs. The Truss Company Inc. will locate its new facility in Salters. Operations are expected to start in March or April. (*World Now and WMBF news.com*)

York County — Composite Resources will expand its Rock Hill facility in a \$3.5 million investment that is expected to generate 50 new jobs over the next five years. Composite Resources will be adding a 60,000-square-foot facility to the company's existing 52,000-square-foot facility. The expansion will provide a dedicated production plant for specialty

contract manufacturing work for military and medical products. Composite Resources engineers and produces components and assemblies for a variety of applications including industrial, military, medical and aerospace. Using composite materials, such as carbon, Kevlar® and fiberglass in combination with traditional materials in their manufacturing processes, the company is able to provide light-weight, high-strength solutions for new and existing products. The company's products include a combat tourniquet, medical comfort device, filtration and purification tubing, radar detection casings and airline seat frame supports. Composite Resources was established in 1993 and now has more than 90 employees. (*The Herald/heraldonline.com*)

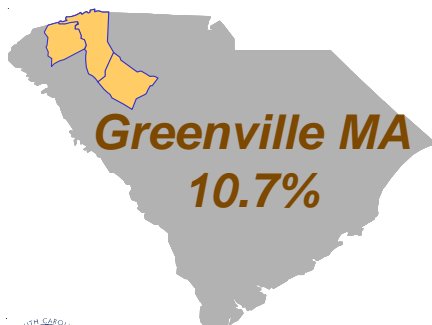
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas December 2009

Industry	Greenville			Columbia			Charleston		
	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	310,300	311,600	316,100	360,700	362,300	364,000	292,200	294,100	296,200
Total Private	266,900	268,000	270,900	280,300	281,900	282,600	233,200	235,000	237,900
Goods Producing	55,700	55,900	58,800	47,600	47,800	50,000	38,500	38,700	41,200
Service Providing	254,600	255,700	257,300	313,100	314,500	314,000	253,700	255,400	255,000
Private Service Providing	211,200	212,100	212,100	232,700	234,100	232,600	194,700	196,300	196,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	15,700	15,800	17,000	18,500	18,600	19,600	17,700	17,800	19,200
Manufacturing	40,000	40,100	41,800	29,100	29,200	30,400	20,800	20,900	22,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	61,400	61,100	64,300	65,700	65,400	68,800	55,400	54,900	57,000
Wholesale Trade	14,600	14,600	14,700	16,100	16,200	16,300	8,900	8,900	8,900
Retail Trade	34,500	34,300	37,000	38,300	38,100	40,700	34,300	34,000	35,800
Food & Beverage Stores				6,200	6,200	6,300			
General Merchandise Stores				8,600	8,600	8,900			
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	12,300	12,200	12,600	11,300	11,100	11,800	12,200	12,000	12,300
Information	7,400	7,300	7,100	6,300	6,300	6,100	6,000	6,000	5,800
Financial Activities	15,000	15,000	15,200	30,300	30,200	30,600	13,800	13,800	14,000
Credit Intermediation & Related Act.				7,800	7,800	8,000			
Professional & Business Services	54,000	55,100	52,000	41,500	42,700	38,900	44,000	44,400	42,200
Admin., Supp., Waste Mgt & Rem. Svc.	32,800	33,800	32,100	20,800	21,500	20,500	23,300	23,800	23,000
Educational & Health Services	32,100	32,100	32,000	45,600	45,500	44,500	33,100	33,200	32,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	24,400	24,400	23,700						
Leisure & Hospitality	29,700	29,800	29,800	29,000	29,700	29,600	31,300	32,800	34,100
Accommodations & Food Services							28,500	29,500	30,000
Food Services & Drinking Places				23,900	24,100	24,000	24,800	25,100	24,400
Other Services (except Pub. Adm.)	11,600	11,700	11,700	14,300	14,300	14,100	11,100	11,200	11,200
Total Government	43,400	43,600	45,200	80,400	80,400	81,400	59,000	59,100	58,300
Federal Government	2,200	2,200	2,100	10,500	10,400	9,900	8,900	8,800	8,400
State Government	10,800	10,900	10,900	34,500	34,400	34,700	21,800	21,900	22,000
Local Government	30,400	30,500	32,200	35,400	35,600	36,800	28,300	28,400	27,900

December 2009 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Areas

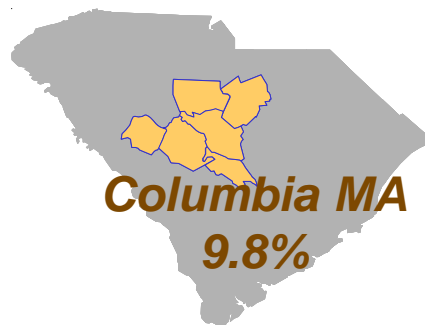
Greenville

Greenville County
Laurens County
Pickens County



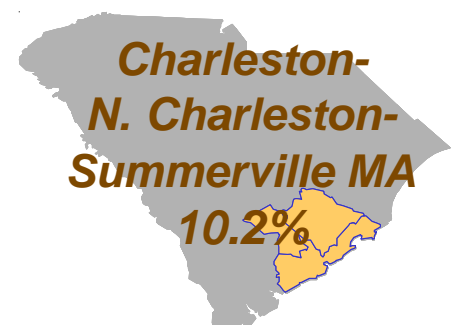
Columbia

Calhoun County
Fairfield County
Kershaw County
Lexington County
Richland County
Saluda County



Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville

Berkeley County
Charleston County
Dorchester County



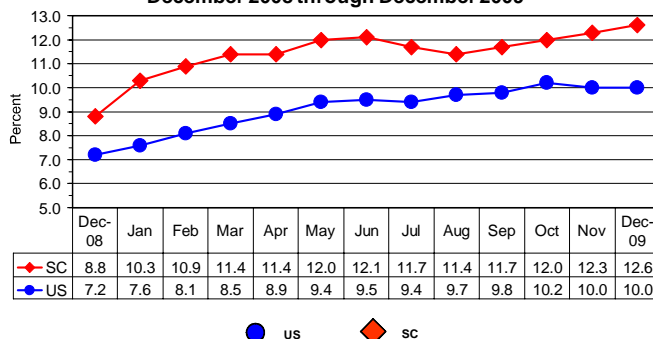
Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers December 2009

Industry	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Net Change From: Nov. 2009 Dec. 2008	
Manufacturing	156,100	156,200	177,000	-100	-20,900
Durable Goods	81,400	81,500	99,400	-100	-18,000
Nondurable Goods	74,700	74,700	77,600	0	-2,900

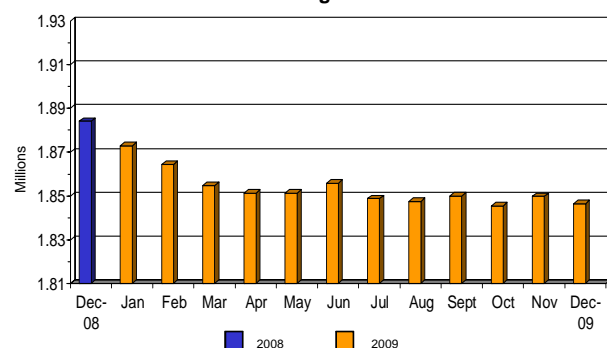
Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment December 2009

Industry	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	Net Change From: Nov. 2009 Dec. 2008	
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,846,400	1,849,700	1,884,100	-3,300	-37,700
Construction	96,300	95,800	108,600	500	-12,300
Manufacturing	212,700	213,000	234,400	-300	-21,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	353,400	353,500	362,900	-100	-9,500
Retail Trade	223,100	224,200	229,200	-1,100	-6,100
Information	30,000	29,800	29,200	200	800
Financial Activities	101,700	102,200	105,600	-500	-3,900
Professional and Business Services	223,700	225,500	209,700	-1,800	14,000
Educational and Health Services	211,100	210,300	208,700	800	2,400
Leisure and Hospitality	199,200	200,200	206,700	-1,000	-7,500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	27,500	26,800	28,300	700	-800
Accommodation & Food Services	171,700	173,400	178,400	-1,700	-6,700
Other Services	71,900	72,000	70,800	-100	1,100
Government	342,200	343,300	343,300	-1,100	-1,100
Federal Government	32,600	32,500	30,700	100	1,900
State Government	98,000	97,800	100,200	200	-2,200
Local Government	211,600	213,000	212,400	-1,400	-800

US & SC Unemployment Rates
December 2008 through December 2009



SC Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment
December 2008 through December 2009



The **South Carolina Workforce TRENDS** is a monthly publication of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Department.

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GLOSSARY

Benchmark – A statistical technique applied to annual data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year, due to sampling error and statistical modeling.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) – BLS is part of the U.S. Department of Labor and functions as the principal data-gathering agency of the federal government in the field of labor economics. BLS collects, processes, analyzes and disseminates data relating to employment, unemployment, the labor force, productivity, prices, family expenditures, wages, industrial relations, and occupational safety and health.

Employment – A count of all persons who worked full or part-time or received pay from a nonagricultural employer for any part of the pay period that included the 12th day of the month. Because this count comes from a survey of employers, persons who work for two different companies would be counted twice. Therefore, nonfarm payroll employment is really a count of the number of jobs, rather than the number of persons employed. Persons may receive pay from a job if they are temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vacations, or a labor-management dispute. This count is based on where the jobs are located, regardless of where the workers reside, and is sometimes referred to as employment "by place of work." Nonfarm payroll employment data are collected and compiled by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey.

Labor Market Information (LMI) – LMI is a body of knowledge that describes the nature, characteristics, and operation of those mechanisms, institutions, and participants involved in the matching of labor supply with demand. LMI is made up of a variety of economic, social, and demographic information. The information describes current conditions and forecasts conditions at a future date. LMI is comprised of population data, labor force data, occupational data, general economic trends, and career data. LMI information can be used to determine policy and program needs, to allocate resources, and to establish program performance standards.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary

Employment – An estimate of all part- and full-time wage and salary employees who worked during, or received pay from the pay period that included the 12th day of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Seasonal Adjustment – A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to seasonal events, such as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

Unemployment – An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week that includes the 12th day of the month.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) – The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides the framework for a unique national workforce development system designed to meet the needs of both the nation's businesses and the needs of job seekers or those who want to further their careers. South Carolina has 12 Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA). The Act requires that each local workforce investment area establish a One-Stop Delivery System including at least one full-service or comprehensive one-stop career center. The full-service one-stop career center must have universal access, including a host of mandatory human services, employment related programs and a partnership, inclusive of each mandatory program that exists in the local community.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor

are projected from a first quarter 2008 benchmark.

Nonagricultural wage and salary

employment estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Therefore, these data are not strictly comparable with the labor force data which represent persons by place of residence. Excluded from wage and salary estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees, and unpaid family workers. A small percentage of wage and salary workers cannot be allocated to specific counties because of the nature of their jobs. Therefore, county data will not add to state totals.

Production worker estimates include full and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Labor force data are adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark, and represent employment and unemployment by place of residence. These data are not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, and self-employed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing total unemployment by the labor force, and is expressed as a percent. Because of the conceptual differences stated above, total employment may in some instances be lower than nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

South Carolina Workforce Trends is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary while all previous data are subject to revision. Industries are classified according to the *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)*. All estimates

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION Statewide Workforce Centers

Abbeville

353 Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, SC 29620
(864) 459-5486

Aiken

1571 Richland Avenue, East
Aiken, SC 29802
(803) 641-7640

Anderson

309 West Whitner Street
Anderson, SC 29622
(864) 226-6273

Barnwell

248 Wall Street
Barnwell, SC 29812
(803) 259-7116

Beaufort

164 Castlerock Road
Beaufort, SC 29906
(843) 524-3351

Bennettville

Highway 9-W Cheraw Hwy
Bennettville, SC 29512
(843) 479-4081

Camden

205 East DeKalb Street
Camden, SC 29020
(803) 432-5153

Charleston

176 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 953-8400

Chester

764 Wilson Street
Chester, SC 29706
(803) 377-8147

Clinton

18 Hazel Drive
Clinton, SC 29325
(864) 833-0142

Coastal

200-A Victory Lane
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 234-9675

Columbia

700 Taylor Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-5627

Florence

1558 West Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 669-4271

Gaffney

133 Wilmac Road
Gaffney, SC 29342
(864) 489-3112

Georgetown

2704 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-8581

Greenville

706 Pendleton Street
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 242-3531

Greenwood

519 Monument Street
Greenwood, SC 29648
(864) 223-1681

Hampton

12 Walnut Street
Hampton, SC 29924
(803) 943-3291

Hartsville

1319 South Fourth Street
Hartsville, SC 29551
(843) 332-1554

Kingstree

530 Martin Luther King Jr.
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 354-7436

Lancaster

705 North White Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
(803) 285-6966

Lexington

714 South Lake Drive,
Suite 140
Lexington, SC 29071
(803) 359-6131

Liberty

317 Summit Drive
Liberty, SC 29657
(864) 843-9512

Marion

2413 East Highway 76
Marion, SC 29571
(843) 423-6900

Moncks Corner

107 East Main Street
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 761-4400

Myrtle Beach

Magnolia Town Centre
Suite 144
9714 North Kings Highway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
(843) 839-5900

Newberry

833 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108
(803) 276-2110

Orangeburg

1804 Joe S. Jeffords Highway
Orangeburg, SC 29116
(803) 534-3336

Ridgeland

7774 West Main Street
Ridgeland, SC 29936
(843) 726-3750

Rock Hill

1228 Fincher Road
Rock Hill, SC 29731
(803) 328-3881

Seneca

11091 Radio Station Road
Seneca, SC 29679
(864) 882-5638

Spartanburg

364 South Church Street (ES)
440 South Church Street (UI)
Spartanburg, SC 29304
(864) 573-7525 ES
(864) 573-7231 UI

Summerville

2885 West 5th North Street
Summerville, SC 29484
(843) 821-0695

Sumter

29 East Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 773-7359

Union

440 Duncan Highway
Union, SC 29379
(864) 427-5672

Walterboro

101 Mable T. Willis Blvd
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 538-8980

Winnsboro

1009 Kincaid Bridge Road
Winnsboro, SC 29180
(803) 635-2292

* Please note that these are physical
addresses of the offices;
mailing addresses may differ.



Sites of Interest on the Internet

**SC Employment Security
Commission**
www.sces.org

**SC Labor Market
Information**
www.sces.org/lmi

SC Government
www.sc.gov

Federal Jobs
www.fedworld.gov

Career Voyages
www.careervoyages.gov

Job Bank USA
www.jobbankusa.com

Career One-Stop
www.careeronestop.org

Career Builder
www.careerbuilder.com

Job Fair Info
www.jobexpo.com
www.cfgcareerfaairs.com

Teaching Jobs
www.k-12jobs.com

Former Military
militarytransitiontimes.com
www.acap.army.mil

Jobs for Women
www.womenforhire.com

**Hispanic Alliance &
Career Enhancement**
www.hace-usa.org

***This issue reflects labor market information for DECEMBER 2009, the
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